

On reflection from today

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Please don't take these as criticisms or see me as getting on my soap box! I am just typing questions that I am asking myself and know I will forget by the next time we meet!

Should we be making up projects that we can just fit PLTS into? Do Ma, Eng and ICT not get as high GCSE results because they have to make the content up therefore the students don't see the point in them? (No offence to those subjects?) Whereas, History, Sci Geog etc get higher grades because the content is so 'enthralling' and we fit the skills in?

Some suggestions for projects... Celebrities and Pirates - yes they may interest the students but should we not broaden their horizons with knowledge they would otherwise not have access to? (e.g Tectonics) If they are doing celebrities - they could surely just read a magazine?

Therefore, should we have a CPD day on PLTS crit thinking and then apply these to our SOLS - if they don't fit, we could re think our SOLs? We could re think our EBOs and think how we could report (VLE, Wikis, how we evidence ... a whole load of other questions which I won't add now as you've already probably stopped reading this!!)

Thinking back to Zoe's DVD from the Guardian. (by the way could this be put onto Media point?) The DVD to me, said that we need to train students with skills but it seems we need to make them aware of world issues. Would looking at celebrities do this? (Sorry I am not against the celebrities idea, I am just trying to look at the flip side to it.)

My group were talking about a carousel but do we not already really do that? We carousel between all the different subjects?!

I would love to collaborate with other subjects, to enrich T and L and so on. However, does the very nature of us all collaborating and us wanting to make a flexible curriculum, mean that it becomes inflexible?

This is because we are all trying to fit too much in and trying to meet too many needs/ideas? Arrhhh I just don't know the answer!

Does making projects mean that this is a curriculum reform? I know it is a baby step but is it the right way? I know we will trial and see if it is.

But another thought (my last for now sorry!) Should we just make our outcomes more explicit in our Sols and revise our lessons and to help this along, should we (our working party) be the ones to go to other depts and help them? But then I like the collapsed days (5 x a year) and I also like the thought of working with other depts on some projects.

I don't know the answers; these are just a few questions and ramblings. Well done if you read this far. (I know we don't have a lot of time, but maybe we could get a little forum going to ramble to each other and throw ideas at each other, so we don't get lost in our little sub groups and risk losing the bigger picture?

Overall, though, I enjoyed today. It was great working with you all and I loved the Pedagogy ideas from Dave - Dave please could you email that power point... I am definitely going to use it in my SOLS!

Last thought, should Year 7s only have 8 teachers? Variety is the spice of life!

I hope I have not offended anyone on this email. I just think we need to continue our discussions outside of our CPD days.